the other half after the defendant files his defence. Similar provisions are contained in the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act.

Reply of Government.—The matter will be referred to the Chief Court.

SUBJECT No. 40.

Reduction of stamp-duty on partition deeds.

Messrs. Linge Gowda and Amble Anniah Pandit, Mysore District Board.

Summary of discussion.—Partition deeds are not now generally executed on account of the heavy stamp-duty payable on them. Consequently many cases are brought before civil and criminal courts. The stamp-duty on them may be fixed at Rs. 2-8-0 for the first thousand and one rupee for every 500 up to Rs. 5,000.

Most of the partition deeds executed between poor people are on plain paper and if possible permission to use plain paper may be given in such cases.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 41.

Reduction of fees for copies of judgments of criminal courts.

Messrs. Lakshminaranappa, Heggaddevankote Taluk, and A. Ramanna, Yedatore Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—To obtain certified copies of judgments of criminal courts, the parties have to pay a stamp fee at eight annas for every 360 words. In the case of the judgments of civil courts, a fee of only eight annas is levied for copies of judgments, whatever their length might be. As the rate fixed for copies of judgments of criminal courts is very heavy, it may be reduced to that fixed for copies of judgments of civil courts.

Reply of Government.—The matter will be again considered.

SUBJECT No. 42.

Heirship certificates.

Messrs. C. Vaman Rao and N. Subba Rao, Nagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Prior to the year 1901, no stamp fee was payable for obtaining heirship certificates when the property involved was below Rs. 1,000. A stamp fee of 2 per cent of the value of the property involved is now charged irrespective of the value of the property. As this acts as a hardship to the poorer classes of people, the old rule may be brought into force.

Reply of Government.—The subject has been finally decided last year.

SUBJECT No. 43.

Production of *khate* extracts in civil cases.

Mr. Syed Mohadeen Sab, Mysore Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The civil courts require extracts from *khate* in cases of sale of lands mortgaged to the plaintiff. As the particulars of the lands are given in the mortgage deed itself, the production of *khate* extracts may be dispensed with.

Reply of Government.—Will be referred to the Chief Court.

SUBJECT No. 44.

Batta to witnesses in criminal courts.

(*a*) Messrs. C. Vaman Rao and N. Subba Rao, Nagar Taluk.

(*b*) Mr. Seshachala Jois, Bannur Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) Witnesses in criminal courts are not paid *batta*. As the attendance in courts involves an interruption of their regular business and additional expenditure, they may be given *batta* at the rates allowed to witnesses in civil courts. If the court cannot defray the expenses the parties may be made to pay them.